

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

AD/151
ALEC
CMM
3

Economic Research Service

U.S. Department
of Agriculture
Washington, DC

ECONOMIC RESEARCH
SERVICE REFERENCE
CENTER

Volume 4, Number 1

JAN 1986

January/February 1986

RECEIVED

A Bimonthly Newsletter for Economic Research Service Employees and Colleagues

USDA'S EROSION CONTROL PROGRAMS EVALUATED

Soil productivity and offsite benefits of erosion control exceed public and private costs on cropland eroding at over 15 tons per acre per year on the average, according to a team of ERS economists that recently evaluated the benefits and costs of USDA's three major soil conservation programs.

The team developed new procedures to estimate the economic value of long-term soil productivity benefits and the reduction in offsite damages due to soil conservation and sediment control. The team's analysis showed that offsite benefits were about twice as high as onsite productivity benefits.

Based on the study results, program efficiency could be improved by targeting

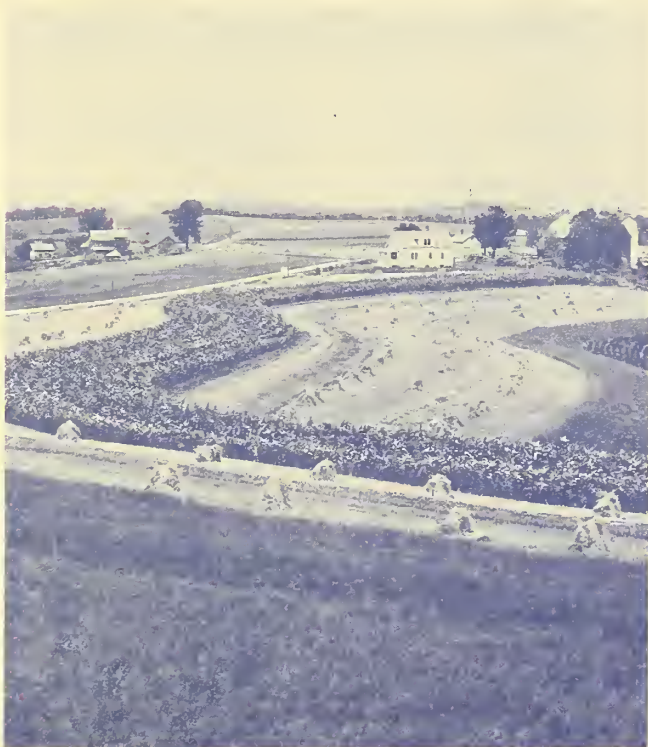
conservation funds to highly erodible land, including offsite damage reduction benefits in developing conservation programs, providing program assistance on the basis of public conservation benefits achieved, expanding the data base, and improving the procedures for evaluating conservation programs. [For further information, call Roger Strohbehn on (202) 786-1438.] ■

ERS'S ROLE IN MONITORING AND ASSESSING TECHNOLOGY

Biotechnology's burgeoning effects on food and agriculture raise policy implications and thus the importance of ERS's work in monitoring and assessing technology.

ERS economist Gary Taylor will take the lead in ERS in monitoring emerging agricultural technologies. He will chair the ERS Technology Committee composed of economists Clark Burbee, Alden Manchester, Edward Overton, Katherine Reichelderfer, John Schaub, and Thomas Stucker.

The committee will facilitate the development of ERS's monitoring and assessment program, provide a focal point for circulating information on emerging technologies, and identify needed assessments. The committee will also develop mechanisms for exchanging information with other USDA agencies, State institutions, and private organizations. [For further information, call Gary Taylor on (202) 786-1449.] ■



Inside . . .

Administrator's letter is on page 3
Current research section begins on page 4
Staff notes begin on page 7



UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

Feb. 2-5 *Southern Agricultural Economics
Association and Southern Rural
Sociological Association, Orlando*



ERS PARTICIPATES IN OECD TRADE STUDY

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is assessing the effects of OECD member countries' policies on agricultural trade. The trade study has three linked components: an analysis of the types and levels of assistance provided to producers and consumers of major agricultural commodities in OECD countries, an assessment of the effects of balanced and simultaneously reduced protection among OECD countries, and suggested methods for improving the functioning of world agricultural markets.

ERS has participated in many aspects of the trade study. Barbara Chattin compiled the technical information on U.S. agricultural programs requested by OECD and has represented ERS and USDA (along with Kenneth Clayton, John Dunmore, Gene Hasha, Cathy Jabara, and Michael Price) at OECD meetings to review policy analyses and modeling systems. Steve Magiera has been at OECD headquarters in Paris for a year helping develop the quantitative model used in the study. [For further information, call Barbara Chattin on (202) 786-1790.] ■

STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

ERS economists John Link, Stephen Haykin, David Skully, and Carolyn Whitton were in Rome from October 20 through November 8 working with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on its annual report, *The State of Food and Agriculture--1985* (SOFA). The ERS group helped FAO expand the report to include

more regional coverage and macroeconomic linkages with the agricultural sectors. Preliminary regional drafts were reviewed, revised, and rewritten.

In addition, the ERS group helped identify variables that would be useful to maintain for evaluating the performance of the agricultural sector from regional perspectives. Subregional groupings were also discussed and recommendations made for their inclusion into the report.

FAO expressed a strong interest in developing stronger ties to ERS and continuing to have ERS review the regional aspects of *SOFA*. FAO is also interested in having some of their analysts meet with ERS country and regional specialists at ERS's headquarters. [For further information, call John Link on (202) 786-1662.] ■

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE



NOTICE TO ERS COLLEAGUES

To receive your own copy of this free newsletter or to change your address, send your name, institutional affiliation, and address to ERS Newsletter, ERS/USDA, Room 1212, 1301 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20005-4788, or call 202-786-3310.

**Economic
Research
Service**

U.S. Department
of Agriculture
Washington, DC

Volume 4, Number 1

January/February 1986

Editor: Susan Webb (786 3310), Office
of the Administrator

Layout: Carolyn Riley, Information Division, EMS
Production: Michael Hunter, Information Division, EMS

Division Representatives:

Gregory Acton (786-1761), Data Services Center
Suzanne Dash (786-1699), International Economics
Kenneth Krupa (786-1422), Natural Resource Economics
Kathryn Lipton (786-1880), National Economics
Lindsay Mann (786-1512), Information, EMS
Paul Myers (786-1549), Agriculture and Rural Economics



ADMINISTRATOR'S LETTER

For American agriculture and the Economic Research Service, 1985 was an eventful year. It began as a newly reelected Administration prepared replacement farm legislation that would represent a significant move to lower-cost, more market-oriented policies. Reduced direct financial assistance to agriculture seemed likely based on public sentiment to curb growing deficits and on the consensus of numerous farm policy conferences.

But proponents of reduced Federal assistance encountered concern about financial problems of farmers, growing problems of farm lenders, declining exports of farm commodities, and record-large, price-depressing harvests.

Those and other developments influenced the agenda and activities of ERS. ERS staff have contributed literally hundreds of staff reports and special analyses on farm bill options, farm financial stress, lender problems, trade prospects, and rural adjustment problems. Tax reform and macroeconomic policy debates also relied heavily on the work of ERS analysts. That demand brought hard work, long hours, and occasional tensions. But all ERS staff can take pride in the large volume of product that was timely, relevant, and of high quality.

At the same time, 1985 was a banner year for ERS research. The numerous research monographs and journal articles authored by our analysts include many that establish new standards of relevance to important public policy issues while maintaining traditional standards of technical excellence.

In 1985, ERS authors also released a number of excellent reports that synthesize what is known about important topics. Those reports are critically important to broader public understanding of economic realities and policy tradeoffs. The feedback on those reports verifies the importance of our publications.

During 1985, we also made major strides in developing new, improved data sources and in improving internal management of the data resources now at our disposal.

In the midst of all of those developments, ERS consolidated 800 people into a 13-story building at 1301 New York Avenue, and hardly missed a beat on its urgent work agenda. We were able to do that because of strong support from the Office of the Secretary to obtain a prime location, competent technical assistance from the Economics Management Staff and a host of other Federal agencies and private companies, and, above all, a phenomenal, characteristically cooperative effort on the part of the entire ERS staff. I especially appreciate the efforts of those serving on relocation committees who anticipated almost every possible issue in the move and worked out effective strategies in advance.

Reflecting on those events helps me to understand the pride many of you have expressed in your accomplishments in 1985. I share that pride and look forward to working with you in 1986 as we strive to realize our individual and collective potential.

John Lee

Current Research



ERS AIDS EGYPTIANS IN FARM INCOME PROJECT

In early November, ERS economists Kenneth Baum, Robert McElroy, and Annette Clauson went to Cairo, Egypt, to work with Egypt's Ministry of Agriculture on computerizing farm income survey data. They have begun work on a computerized farm level model (based on ERS's REPFARM system) of Egyptian agriculture and an outline of an Egyptian program of economic research. Those activities are part of a larger data collection and analysis project sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) that involves ERS and USDA's Statistical Reporting Service. [See *ERS*, Vol. 3, No. 2.]

The project began in 1980 with the collection of crop production statistics. The farm income activity began in the fall of 1983, and the first surveys were run in the winter of 1984. The project is the centerpiece for an Egyptian national agricultural research project backed by more than \$150 million in AID funding.

ERS plans to send another group, led by James Johnson, to Egypt in February. The group will monitor the progress of survey data computerization, review and evaluate cost of production survey plans and publications in progress, and begin to review the Egyptian agricultural national income and product account estimates and procedures. [For further information, call Kenneth Baum on (202) 786-1801.] ■



ERS PARTICIPATES IN MOROCCAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

ERS and USDA's Statistical Reporting Service have begun a 10-year project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, to develop economic analysis, planning, and statistics capabilities in the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture.

ERS economist Mathew Shane recently went to Morocco to assess the potential of the project and ERS's contribution to it. Many development issues require policy decisions on the part of the Moroccan government. Yet, economic analysis and planning capabilities to guide those decisions are scarce.

Many issues need to be analyzed. Among them are modifications in the policy environment to stimulate agricultural development, the balance between a focus on the grains economy (50 percent of agricultural production) and other agricultural and nonagricultural products, and the question of administered versus free-market pricing.

ERS can help train the Moroccans to carry on long-term economic analysis and planning for Moroccan agriculture and help to develop the institutional structure to support that analysis and planning. [For further information, call Mathew Shane, on (202) 786-1705.] ■

QUALITY DEMAND FOR FRESH TOMATOES

Grade and size standards provide consumers with information about the physical attributes of a product and enhance market pricing efficiency. ERS economist Theresa Sun studied consumers' evaluations of grades and sizes for tomatoes and whether they conform to the industry's quality standards.

Sun's results indicate that consumers are more aware of quality differences when comparing tomatoes of high quality than when comparing low quality tomatoes. Consumers also consider grade quality first and size quality second; small tomatoes of higher grades are preferred over large tomatoes of lower grade.

Price effects indicate demands are elastic for high and middle quality tomatoes and either inelastic or insignificant for low quality tomatoes. [For further information, call Theresa Sun on (202) 786-1768.] ■



EFFECTS ON LAND VALUES OF DISCONTINUING COMMODITY PROGRAMS

ERS economist Karl Gertel recently examined the probable effects on land values under a hypothetical scenario of discontinuing farm programs in 1986. The consequences of such a change in policy illustrate the relationship of farm commodity programs to returns to and values of land producing major crops.

Gertel found that, without commodity programs in 1986, returns to and values of land producing wheat would decline more than those for land producing corn and soybeans. By 1990, the values for land growing corn and soybeans could reach the level where they would have been with the commodity programs in place. But wheatland values would still be below such levels. [For further information, call Karl Gertel on (202) 786-1425.] ■

COP SURVEYS PROVIDE RESEARCH BASE

The structure and performance data gathered as part of ERS's cost of production (COP) surveys make several research projects possible in addition to providing the basis for cost of production budgets. ERS researchers have just completed two studies based on data gathered in the 1981 Livestock Cost of Production Survey.

ERS economist Henry Gilliam analyzed the performance of the cow-calf production sector using COP data. His staff report, *Performance of the Beef Cow-Calf Sector*, notes an improvement in the physical performance of the sector since the mid-1970's. Calves born per 100 cows increased from 79 in 1975 to 87 in 1980. Average weights of calves sold increased over 7 percent.

Except in the West, cow-calf producers used less grazing land per cow in 1980 than in 1975 and 9 percent less harvested forage. Labor productivity declined, however; about 11 percent more labor time was required per cow in 1980 than in 1975. And overall economic efficiency has declined in the 1980's. Net returns to operator management and risk have become increasingly negative since 1979, failing to cover even cash expenses in 1982 and 1983. [For further information, call Henry Gilliam on (919) 672-4279.]

ERS economist Kenneth Nelson and former ERS economist Roy van Arsdall used COP data to evaluate the possible economies of scale in hog production. Their technical bulletin, *Economies of Size in Hog Production*, indicates that economies are substantial and increase up to at least 10,000-hog operations. Large producers fare best on pigs farrowed and saved per litter, litters farrowed per female per year, death loss, and feed conversion rates. Of the eight performance measures studied, only weight produced per litter was not related to size.

Large producers also fare considerably better in prices received and paid as well as in lower labor and ration costs. All of this points to a continuing trend toward larger hog production units, which should improve meat quality and consistency at a lower cost to consumers. But the reduced flexibility of output will contribute to sluggish supply response. [For further information, call Kenneth Nelson on (202) 786-1821.] ■

CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FOR THREE TYPICAL FARMS

As part of a recent staff analysis, ERS economist George Pavelis estimated the value of government conservation assistance programs for a typical Kansas wheat farm, Wisconsin dairy farm, and Iowa corn-hog farm.

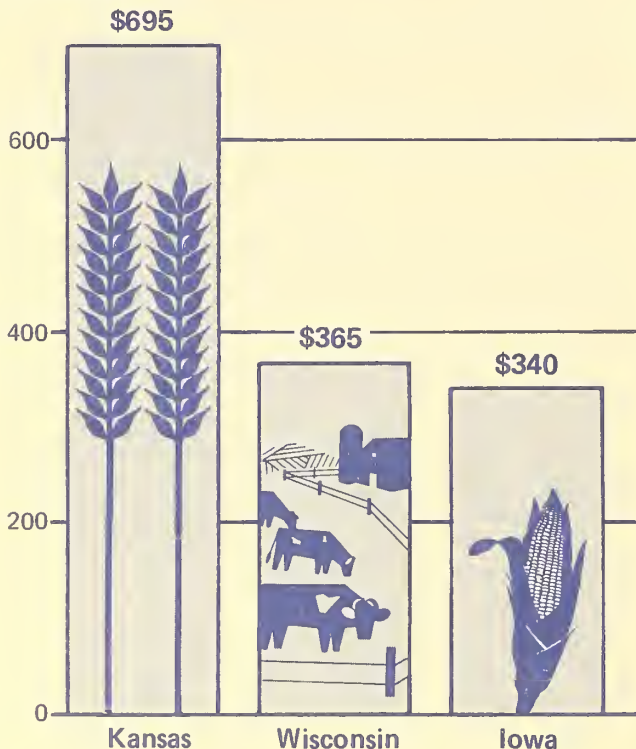
The typical Kansas wheat farm directly or indirectly benefits by \$545 per year from USDA conservation programs, divided fairly equally among cost-sharing programs like the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), technical assistance provided by USDA's Soil Conservation Service, and flood protection and small watershed projects. Such a farm would also receive about \$150 annually in State and local public conservation expenditures.

The typical Wisconsin dairy farm benefits by \$250 per year from USDA conservation programs, divided among ACP (50 percent), technical assistance (35 percent), and flood protection and small watershed projects (15 percent). State and local government conservation programs add \$115 per year.

The typical Iowa corn-hog farm benefits by \$210 per year from USDA conservation programs, divided among ACP (45 percent), technical assistance (35 percent), and flood protection and small watershed projects (20 percent). State and local government conservation programs add \$130 per year. [For further information, call George Pavelis on (202) 786-1448]. ■

How much does a typical farm benefit from Government conservation assistance?

Dollars per year



DVOSKIN TO STUDY EXCESS CAPACITY

ERS economist Dan Dvoskin and other ERS economists have begun two new studies dealing with excess capacity in U.S. agriculture. The first will attempt to define and measure excess capacity in agriculture, determine the magnitude of the U.S. oversupply situation, and estimate the amount of resources that would have to be removed from production to balance supply and demand. As part of the study, Luther Tweeten (Oklahoma State University) led a seminar in mid-October at ERS in Washington, DC, at which the meaning of excess capacity and the results of previous attempts to measure it were discussed.

The second study will evaluate the potential longrun contribution of new crops and alternative uses of existing crops—those producing nonfood products such as industrial materials and fuel. That study, to be conducted in cooperation with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, promises to shed light on the extent to which complementary new crops and uses might boost foreign and domestic demand for U.S. farm products. [For further information, call Dan Dvoskin on (202) 786-1402.] ■

Staff Notes

Photo by Carolyn Riley



**ILLINOIS' OFFUTT
IN ERS**

Susan Offutt, assistant professor of agricultural economics at the University of Illinois, is in ERS for a year investigating the linkages between technological advance

and input quality. She will also consider the policy implications of investment in new technologies.

Input quality constraints can affect the success of adopting new agricultural technologies, as reflected in the magnitude and stability of yield increases. When the severity of those constraints varies across farms, so will the distribution of gains from technological advance. Such differential output and distribution effects may be concerns in the development of new technologies, thereby creating a need to anticipate their potential effects.

The U.S. experience with corn provides the context for assessing the importance of input quality constraints. Offutt will develop methods (by which that information can be used to predict future effects of technological change) as tools for analysis of alternative research and development strategies, particularly with respect to new biotechnologies. As the pace of change accelerates, anticipating the distributional effects of adoption could help formulate policies that ease sectoral adjustment.

After completing M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at Cornell, Offutt joined the faculty at Illinois in 1982 with an appointment in public policy analysis. Her primary research interest has been investigating sources of instability in commodity markets and alternative policy designs for coping with instability. She has taught introductory agricultural economics, policy analysis, and econometrics at Illinois. ■

Photo by Carolyn Riley



**FLORIDA'S BOGGESS
IN ERS**

William Boggess, associate professor of food and resource economics, University of Florida, is in ERS's Natural Resource Economics Division. He will be in Washington until August 1986

working on a joint ERS-University of Florida assessment of resource policy models.

The research project will focus on ways to incorporate risk analysis as a component in resource policy research and evaluation, including the effects of risk attitudes and perceptions on participation, decisionmaking under uncertainty, assessment of health and environmental quality risks, analysis of farm income risks, and evaluation of conservation program uncertainties.

The research will use the conservation reserve component of the 1985 Farm Bill as a case study. That research project will be coordinated with related work at Resources for the Future and the University of Missouri to provide a more complete analysis of the conservation reserve program. ■

HEBREW UNIVERSITY'S SHALIT IN ERS

Haim Shalit, lecturer in agricultural economics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, recently spent 3 months in ERS's newly formed Externalities Group in the Natural Resource Economics Division.

A joint study of the deterministic and stochastic aspects of the externalities associated with fertilizer use was initiated. A damage function tying the use of fertilizer to surface and ground water pollution is being integrated into a national model of agricultural production. ■

ARED NAMES FOUR NEW SECTION LEADERS

Herman Bluestone is the new Leader, Rural Business and Industry Section, Rural Business and Government Branch, Agriculture and Rural Economics Division (ARED). He has been a member of the Rural Business and Industry Section since 1975 and an employee of ERS since it was established in 1961.

Bluestone's numerous works have been published in the Rural Development Research Report series, staff reports, speeches, and in USDA and other professional journals. Prior to researching rural development, he was a commodity analyst specializing in the supply, demand, and price situation and outlook for poultry, eggs, milk, and dairy products.

Bluestone received a B.S. in poultry husbandry from the University of Maryland and an M.S. in economics from American University. He also completed the course work for a Ph.D. in economics at the University of Maryland.

Richard Long is the new Leader, State and Local Government Section, Rural Business and Government Branch, ARED. He comes to ERS from the Office of Rural Development Policy where he was the director of the Research and Analysis Staff for 5 years.

Long has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Missouri. He joined USDA in 1978, coming from the Brookings Institution where he was a research associate in the Governmental Studies Program. Before that, he was Director of Research for the U.S. Senate Commission on the Operation of the Senate.

Long spent 3 years in the Legislative Research Department of the Kansas State Legislature before becoming Assistant Director of Program Development of the Citizens Conference on State Legislatures in Kansas City and later in Denver. He has written on the legislative process and administration in the U.S. Senate and coauthored a Brookings study of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

David McGranahan is the new Leader, Rural Labor Markets Section, Human Resources Branch, ARED. McGranahan has published numerous papers on rural labor markets and employment stability. He has been Leader of the Social Indicators Project since its establishment in the Population Section. He has 5 years service in ERS.

Prior work experience has included 10 years of research at the University of Wisconsin where he worked on human resource and industrial development issues. He also has worked in the Peace Corps, VISTA, and World Bank. He has taught courses in accounting and established and managed credit unions in low income areas.

McGranahan received a B.A. in economics from Harvard and an M.S. in rural sociology and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin.

Peggy Ross is the new Leader, Income and Well-Being Section, Human Resources Branch, ARED. She has served as Leader of the Personal Income Distribution Project since its inception in 1983. Ross has more than 8 years of service in ERS and has received the Administrator's Special Merit Award for Outstanding Research for her work on social indicators.



Bluestone



Long



McGranahan



Ross

Ross worked for 11 years at the Social Science Research Center and Department of Rural Sociology, Mississippi State University. In that position, she served as principal investigator for a number of projects and also as clerical staff supervisor and enumerator manager.

Ross received a Ph.D. in rural sociology from Ohio State University and an M.A. and undergraduate training at Mississippi State University in sociology and English. ■



Photo by Carolyn Riley

BRANSON RETURNS TO ARS

ARS's Ira Branson was in ERS for the past 18 months under an exchange program [see *ERS*, Vol. 3, No. 2]. He returned to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in December.

During his tenure in ERS, Branson worked with former ERS economist Richard Farnsworth in completing a study, *USDA Agricultural Research Service Needs for the Economics Discipline*.

Branson, who has a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Maryland, has joined ARS's newly formed Agricultural Systems Research Institute. It will focus on research to integrate resource use in agricultural production with domestic and international marketing. The research program will increasingly use computer-assisted modeling and expert systems concepts to understand technical and behavioral relationships. The economics discipline will be an essential component of that research, and ARS will look to ERS and the State agricultural experiment stations for assistance. ■



Photo by Carolyn Riley

OHIO'S LINES IN ERS

Allan Lines, associate professor of farm management at Ohio State University, is in ERS's National Economics Division until July 1986. He

is working with ERS economists James Johnson and Mitchell Morehart to develop an analytical framework to estimate the probability that selected farm characteristics (such as type, region, size, tenure of operator, and specialization) are statistically associated with the financial health of the farm business. His analysis will lead to the development of implications for agricultural policies targeted at specific and identifiable problems associated with financial stress.

Reared on a grape and dairy farm in western New York, Lines received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Cornell University and a Ph.D. from Purdue University. He has been at Ohio State University for 11 years. ■



Photo by Michael Hunter

NEWMAN IS NEW SECTION LEADER IN IED

Mark Newman is the new Leader, Country Agriculture Structure Section, Western Europe Branch, International Economics Division. He has a B.A. in political science from

Pennsylvania State University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University. While under an associate professorship appointment at Michigan State, Newman developed research programs in agricultural marketing, international trade, and food policy at the Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute.

During 1980-83, Newman was an assistant professor at Kansas State University. In addition to agricultural marketing and international trade, Newman's research interests include agricultural cooperatives. ■

Photo by Carolyn Riley



IDAHO'S JONES IN ERS

James Jones, associate professor of agricultural economics at the University of Idaho, is spending a sabbatical in ERS's International Economics Division (IED). A major

portion of his work in IED will focus on how foreign exchange inconvertibility, hard currency shortages, and credit restrictions influence import demand behavior in centrally planned economies. Those considerations and other factors are being appraised in terms of how they enter into the import decision process in economies that conduct trade through state trading monopolies.

While the objective of Jones' research is to develop an improved economic modeling framework for assessing and predicting agricultural trade patterns and trends in centrally planned economies, the method developed may also be applicable to many Third World countries where foreign exchange rationing is prevalent.

Photo by Carolyn Riley



COLLINS DETAILED TO SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Keith Collins, Deputy Director of ERS's National Economics Division, has been serving since August on Secretary of Agriculture John Block's Farm Bill Task Force. He has been

responsible for providing impact analyses on a variety of farm program proposals offered by individuals, farm groups, and members of Congress.

Collins has been directly involved in over 100 staff and policy analyses, including assessing the impact of six proposals for mandatory controls, drafting a detailed side-by-side comparison of current law and House- and Senate-proposed farm legislation, and analyzing the targeting of farm program benefits based on a means test for eligibility. Collins has also provided input for future farm legislation that integrates credit, conservation, and commodity assistance.

GALLIMORE RETIRES

William Gallimore will retire in January after 30 years of Federal Government service. He started his career with USDA in 1959 while completing a Ph.D. in economics at North Carolina State University. Gallimore worked in poultry marketing research in USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service and transferred to ERS when it was formed in 1961.

After 14 years in poultry marketing research, Gallimore headed a task force to assess the growth of substitute and synthetic products for agricultural products. He worked in market development, new products, and technology assessment for a few years and during that time spent a year on detail to the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment where he completed a study identifying new technologies in marketing food and agricultural products that needed assessing. He also spent 5 months at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as the economist on an interdisciplinary team that analyzed the potential of protein from new and unconventional sources.

For the past several years, Gallimore has been leader of the Transportation Research Section, which is now in the Food Marketing and Consumption Economics Branch of ERS's National Economics Division.

HIGHLIGHTS OF STAFF ACTIVITIES

James Shaub organized a rural labor market research symposium . . . **James Miller** spoke in Columbus, Ohio, on business expansion and retention in the Great Lakes States . . . **David Harrington** went to France on a scientific exchange on the structure of agriculture . . .

Kelley White, Maurice Landes, Katherine Reichelderfer, and Gary Taylor participated in the fourth meeting of the Indo-U.S. Subcommittee on Agriculture to identify priority areas for bilateral cooperation in agriculture . . . ERS hosted a West German research team for joint discussions on economic modeling and policy analysis under OICD's scientific and technical exchange program . . . ERS hosted a Spanish team for discussions of mutual research on U.S.-Spanish feedlivestock sectors under the U.S.-Spain Treaty for Friendship and Cooperation . . . **Brooke Schwarz** went to Europe to examine developments in the fruit and vegetable area with a focus on the probable trade implications of Spain and Portugal's membership in the EC . . . **David Stallings** spoke in Racine, Wisconsin, on the relationship between exchange rates and world commodity prices . . . **Peter Liapis** went to Europe to study the EC grain sector and the range of options for dealing with the supply/ demand imbalance in grains . . . **Dale Leuck** went to Europe to look at factors affecting the level and rate of mechanization in European agriculture and the implications for output . . . **Francis Urban** discussed the possibility of an ERS-Warsaw Agricultural University personnel exchange with WAU's Deputy Rector **Wieslaw Barej** and **Mieczyslaw Adamswicz**, Dean of WAU's School of Agricultural Economics . . . **Robert Koopman** presented papers on Soviet agricultural reform at the Third World Congress for Soviet and East European Studies in Washington, DC, and at the Russian Research Center at Harvard University . . . **Robert Cummings** and **Nancy Cochrane** briefed **Sten Luthman** of Sweden's Institute for Soviet and East European Economic Affairs on the current production and trade outlook for Eastern Europe . . . **Emily Moore** spoke to the International Durum Forum about Soviet wheat production and use . . . **Yuri Markish** was interviewed by the *Chemical Engineering News Journal* on the Soviet fertilizer industry . . . **Chris Foster** provided information on Czech grain production and possible agricultural reforms to **Jay Sjerven** of *Agribusiness Worldwide* and *World Grain Magazine* . . . **Kathryn Zeimetz** was interviewed by **Jim Kay** of Iowa Public Television about Soviet agricultural policy . . .

Eldon Ball presented a seminar on measuring agricultural productivity at the University of Chicago . . . **David Harvey** discussed sugar and other sweeteners in an interview for a USDA-produced radio program . . . **Lloyd Teigen** was interviewed by the Homestead News Service about the implications of technological diffusion on the structure of agriculture . . . **Robert Barry** was interviewed by PBS-TV on sugar-high fructose corn syrup competition . . . **Neil Conklin** and **Joan Pearrow** represented ERS at the Produce Marketing Association's convention and exposition in San Francisco . . . **Lawrence Duewer** and **Ronald Gustafson** participated in an American Farm Bureau forum on meat prices . . . **Kenneth Baum** and **Michael Kurtzig** spent 3 weeks in Turkey assessing that country's current program and training needs in price and policy analyses . . .

John Miranowski, Robert Boxley, and William Anderson participated in the National Range Conference on Opportunities for the Future in Oklahoma City . . . **Peter DeBraal** spoke about foreign ownership of U.S. land at several sessions of the annual meeting of the National Association of Realtors in New Orleans . . . **Alex Majchrowicz** spoke about ERS's rural land transfer survey at the annual conference of the International Association of Assessing Officers in Reno . . . **Luis Suguiyama** and **Catherine Greene** spoke about integrated pest management at the annual meeting of the eastern branch of the Entomological Society of America in Williamsburg . . . **Andrew Bernat** presented a paper on land values at a meeting of the North Central Regional Research Committee on Land Values. ■

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE
1301 NEW YORK AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005-4788

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-145